

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 469 Human Trafficking
SPONSOR(S): Gannon and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 250

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Criminal Justice Committee		Ferguson	Kramer
2) Future of Florida's Families Committee			
3) Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee			
4) Justice Council			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Currently, section 787.06, F.S., makes it a second degree felony to knowingly engage in human trafficking with the intent that the trafficked person engage in forced labor or services. HB 469 expands the definition of forced labor or services to include labor coerced from a person when the person's identification documents are destroyed, concealed, or withheld by another.

HB 469 amends section 772.102, F.S. by expanding the definition of the term "criminal activity" to include the offense of human trafficking for purpose of seeking civil remedies for criminal offenses.

HB 469 amends section 895.02, F.S. by redefining the term "racketeering activity" to include the offense of human trafficking for purposes of the Florida RICO Act.

HB 469 provides an effective date of October 1, 2006.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government- The bill expands the scope of the offense of human trafficking.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Human Trafficking

In 2000, Congress passed the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000" and published findings including the following¹:

As the 21st century begins, the degrading institution of slavery continues throughout the world. Trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery, and it is the largest manifestation of slavery today. At least 700,000 persons annually, primarily women and children, are trafficked within or across international borders. Approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year.

Many of these persons are trafficked into the international sex trade, often by force, fraud or coercion. The sex industry has rapidly expanded over the past several decades. It involves sexual exploitation of persons, predominately women and girls, involving activities related to prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and other commercial sexual services. The low status of women in many parts of the world has contributed to a burgeoning of the trafficking industry.

Trafficking in persons is not limited to the sex industry. This growing transnational crime also includes forced labor and involves significant violations of labor, public health, and human trafficking rights standards worldwide.

On June 3, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the fifth annual Department of State trafficking in persons report²:

We estimate that up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. And millions more are trafficked internally. Victims of trafficking, most of them women and children, are forced, defrauded or coerced into inhumane conditions. They are made to toil on farms and in work camps, in brothels and in sweatshops. Children are even forced to become soldiers. Whatever cruel form of servitude they may take, trafficking victims live in fear and misery. And wherever the trafficking trade flourishes, the rule of law erodes, corruption thrives, public health suffers and organized crime threatens the security of entire communities.

Federal legislation

As part of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, Congress created 18 U.S.C. 1591 which prohibits sex trafficking. The sections makes it a felony to recruit, entice, harbor, transport or provide another person knowing that force, fraud or coercion will be used to cause the person to engage in a "commercial sex act."

Current law

¹ Public Law 106-386, sec. 102.

² Trafficking in Persons Report June 2005. See <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/47193.htm>

On October 1, 2004, section 787.06, F.S. was enacted providing that any person who knowingly engages in human trafficking with the intent that the trafficked person engage in “forced labor or services” commits a felony of the second degree.

Human trafficking is defined as transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing or obtaining another person for transport.

“Forced labor or services” is currently defined as:

- Using or threatening to use physical force against that person or another person; or
- Restraining or confining or threatening to restrain or confine that person or another person without lawful authority and against her or his will.

Effect of bill

HB 469 amends section 787.06, F.S., providing legislative findings and intent; those findings are summarized as follows:

The Legislature finds that human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, and adults. Thousands of victims are trafficked annually across international borders worldwide. Many of these victims are trafficked into this state. The Legislature finds that while many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or the sexual entertainment industry, trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, sweatshop factory work, and migrant agricultural work. The Legislature finds that traffickers use various techniques to instill fear in victims and to keep them enslaved. It is the intent of the Legislature that the perpetrators of human trafficking be penalized for their illegal conduct and that the victims of trafficking be protected and assisted by this state and its agencies.

HB 469 amends section 787.06, F.S. by expanding the term “forced labor or services” to include:

- Isolating a person without lawful authority and against his or her will; or
- Destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, withholding, or possessing any actual or purported passport, visa, or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of that person or another.

HB 469 amends section 787.06, F.S., to provide:

The Florida Court Educational Council shall establish standards of instruction for circuit and county court judges who hear cases involving victims of human trafficking and shall provide for periodic and timely instruction.

The Florida Court Educational Council is statutorily created. Section 25.384, F.S. states that, “there is created a Court Education Trust Fund to be administered by the Supreme Court through the Florida Court Educational Council.” This statute provides that trust fund moneys shall be used to provide education and training for judges and other court personnel as defined and determined by the Florida Court Education Council.³

HB 469 amends section 772.102, F.S. by expanding the definition of the term “criminal activity” to include the offense of human trafficking for purpose of seeking civil remedies for criminal offenses.

HB 469 amends section 895.02, F.S. by redefining the term “racketeering activity” to include the offense of human trafficking for purposes of the Florida RICO Act.

³ See section 25.384(2)(a), F.S.

HB 469 reenacts ss. 16.56 (1) (a), 655.50 (3) (g), 896.101 (2) (g), and 905.34, F.S. relating to the authority of the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor, the definition of "specified unlawful activity" in a law prohibiting money laundering in financial institutions and in the Florida Money Laundering Act, and the subject matter jurisdiction of a statewide grand jury.

HB 469 provides an effective date of October 1, 2006.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 787.06, F.S., providing legislative findings and intent; redefining the term "forced labor or services"; establishing standards for circuit and county judges.

Section 2. Amends s. 772.102, F.S., expanding the definition of the term "criminal activity".

Section 3. Amends s. 895.02, F.S., redefining the term "racketeering activity".

Section 4. Reenacts s. 16.56 (1) (a), F.S., relating to the authority of the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor.

Section 5. Reenacts s. 655.50 (3) (g), F.S., relating to the definition of "specified unlawful activity" in a law prohibiting money laundering in financial institutions.

Section 6. Reenacts s. 896.101 (2) (g), F.S., relating to the definition of "specified unlawful activity" in the Florida Money Laundering Act.

Section 7. Reenacts s. 905.34, F.S., relating to the subject matter jurisdiction of a statewide grand jury.

Section 8. Provides an effective date of October 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

On January 9, 2006, the Criminal Justice Estimating Conference met and determined that HB 469 would have no impact on the prison bed population for the Department of Corrections.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill appears to be exempt from the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution because it is a criminal law.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES